

**NEW ADVANCED COMMUNICATION CHOICES
COMING TO PARK WEST REGION**

BIRTLE MB, January 25, 2017– The Park West Fibre Optics Co-Op (PWFOC) is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement with Westman Communications Group (Westman) that will bring new advanced communication options for residents and businesses in the Park West towns of Binscarth, Birtle, Hamiota, Rosssburn, Russell, Shoal Lake, and Strathclair. Residents and businesses in these towns will have access to Westman’s high speed Internet services, enhanced video services and for the first time, a choice for phone service.

“The Park West Fibre Optics Co-Op was formed to help enable these types of opportunities for our communities so residents can receive Internet, Home Phone, and better television choices comparable to those found in larger urban markets in the province,” said Don Cochrane, Chair of the Board of the PWFOC. “Westman is a great fit as they are a co-operative like us and have demonstrated their focus on bringing faster Internet speeds to communities of all sizes in Western Manitoba,” added Cochrane.

Households will have Internet download speed options ranging from 12 Mbps to 60 Mbps, the fastest Internet available in their towns, making the Internet experience more enjoyable for streaming movies, downloading music, interactive gaming and online shopping. “Westman has evolved from being a cable company to becoming a broadband leader with our Internet service, providing tremendous value to the residents of Western Manitoba. Our entry level Wave Internet service is twice as fast as that of our major competitor in these markets, our service is lower in price, and there are no usage caps,” said Dave Baxter, President and Chief Executive Officer of Westman Communications Group. Baxter continued, “Our infrastructure is fibre based so we will be able to offer speeds up to 1 Gig (1000 Mbps) in the future.”

Westman will be bringing more video choices to these towns so customers will now have access to over 300 TV channels including over 100 in high definition, as well as a Video On Demand service with over 5,000 titles. The addition of Home Phone to Westman's services means that for the first time ever, residents can choose which company provides their phone service. Westman's service includes free features such as Call Display, Voicemail and Call Waiting and if you choose, you can keep your current phone number. Baxter points out, "Based on our experience in markets where we have recently launched home phone service, we expect it to be popular. It's easy to switch."

Dates for when these services will become available in 2017 are pending and once known they will be communicated to residents. Westman will host a series of Open Houses in Binscarth, Birtle, Hamiota, Rosburn, Russell, Shoal Lake, and Strathclair closer to the service launch dates so residents will have an opportunity to see firsthand their new entertainment options.

About Park West Fibre Optics Co-Op Inc

Park West Fibre Optics Co-Op Inc was formed in 2016 and consists of three municipalities: Yellowhead, Hamiota, Prairie View, and the Park West School Division. The goal of the co-op is to bring communication options to the communities within these municipalities and to connect all the schools in the Park West School Division with high speed broadband connectivity.

For further information contact:

Don Cochrane
Chair
Park West Fibre Optic Co-Op Inc
Box 68, 1126 St. Claire Street
Birtle, MB R0M 0C0
Email: docochrane@pwsd.ca
Phone: 204-365-7439

About Westman Communications Group

Westman Communications Group is the operating name for Westman Media Cooperative Ltd., which provides service throughout Western Manitoba. Westman is a customer-owned cooperative, which operates cable systems in 36 communities. Westman is a leader in communication products and services including cable TV, Internet and phone. Westman also owns and operates local radio stations 880 CKLQ and 94.7 STAR FM, which broadcast throughout Western Manitoba. Westman is proud of its strong commitment to its customers and the communities it serves.

For further information contact:

John Quail
Chief Marketing Officer
Westman Communications Group
1906 Park Avenue, Brandon, MB R7B 0R9
Phone: 204-717-2025